

All Around Pennsauken



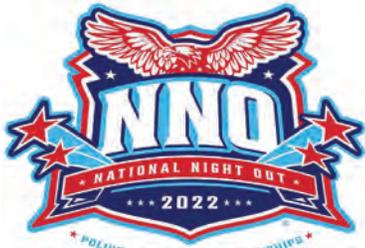
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VOL. 27, NO. 7

A Publication for the Community of Pennsauken

July 2022

National Night Out In Pennsauken Held On August 2



Pennsauken's first responders are holding a special event during National Night Out, Tuesday, Aug. 2, an annual community-building campaign that is designed to make neighborhoods a safer, better place to live.

Held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Pennsauken Community Recreation Complex, 6730 Westfield Ave., Pennsauken's police officers, firefighters, and EMTs are joining forces to present a variety of displays and activities, specialized unit demonstrations, and more.

"National Night Out is all about building and reinforcing the relationship between public safety and the residents we serve," explained Pennsauken Police Chief Phil Olivo. "This year, we expect to provide another great experience for the members of our community."

According to the National Night Out website, NATW.org, "Millions of neighbors take part in National Night Out across thousands of communities from all fifty states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide on the first Tuesday in

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The Class Of 2022 Graduates From Pennsauken High School

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

At the end of a full, in-person school year that immediately followed the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pennsauken School District gathered with a significantly large crowd of family and friends to celebrate those students achieving an important milestone in their academic lives: the graduation of the Class of 2022.

On the evening of June 16, Pennsauken High School held a commencement ceremony at The Liacouras Center at Temple University, the first time since 2019 that an entire graduating class from PHS was recognized all together during a single event. Principal Rich Bonkowski addressed the soon-to-be graduates, with whom he shared many memorable and life-changing moments.

"Together we began your high school journey in the fall of 2018, you as freshman,

Mayors Rafeh, Brennan Speak At PMAC Luncheon

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Pennsauken Mayor Jessica Rafeh and Merchantville Mayor Ted Brennan were the special guest speakers at last month's meeting of the Pennsauken-Merchantville Area Chamber of Commerce (PMAC).

"Every year, we invite the mayors of Pennsauken and Merchantville to speak with our members," said Tim Ellis, chairperson of PMAC. "It's great that they're here to talk about what's happening in our communities."

During their talks, both mayors stressed the importance of partnership and collaboration between the two municipalities.

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The Class of 2022 throws their caps in the air as they become the newest alumni of Pennsauken High School.

and me as principal. We all had a roller-coaster of a ride over the last four years, and we made it through everything that was thrown at us.

"Tonight ends your high school career.

And before you turn that page, please remember to thank all those who helped get you here. Before I turn the page on the Class of 2022, I would like to thank

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Merchantville Mayor Ted Brennan and Pennsauken Mayor Jessica Rafeh spoke at June's Pennsauken-Merchantville Area Chamber of Commerce meeting. Also pictured are Pennsauken Deputy Mayor Nicole Roberts and PMAC Chairperson Tim Ellis.

Look! inside

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New Jersey American Water: (800) 272-1325

Local Food Pantries Helping Those In Need

The following is a list of food pantries in Pennsauken and Merchantville that regularly assist local families in need:

- Gates of Praise, 6345 Wisteria Ave.; every second and fourth Fri., 5 to 7 p.m.; (856) 473-5417
- First Presbyterian Church of Merchantville, 10 W. Maple Ave.; July 10 and 24, 12:15 to 1:30 p.m.; (856) 662-6252
- Martin Luther Chapel, 4100 Terrace Ave.; every second Wed., 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; (856) 665-0116
- Mary Queen of All Saints, 4824 Camden Ave.; every Sat., 10 to 11:30 a.m. (856) 662-2721
- Saint Matthew's Methodist Church, 1665 Derosse Ave.; every third Tues., 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; (856)

662-3610

- Serenity Christian Worship Center, 3555 Haddonfield Rd. – Suite B; every third Sat., 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; (856) 330-4915
- Temple Lutheran Church, 5600 N. Rt. 130; Wed. 7/6 & 7/20, 5 to 7 p.m., Thurs. 7/7 & 7/21, 3 to 5 p.m., Sat. 7/9 & 7/23, 10 a.m. to noon; (856) 663-7783
- World Harvest Christian Center, 7201 Westfield Ave.; every other Sat., 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; (856) 389-9191

Volunteers, as well as food and financial donations, are greatly appreciated by these organizations; to do so, please reach out using the contact information provided in this article.



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Gates Community Gathering Day Held On August 28

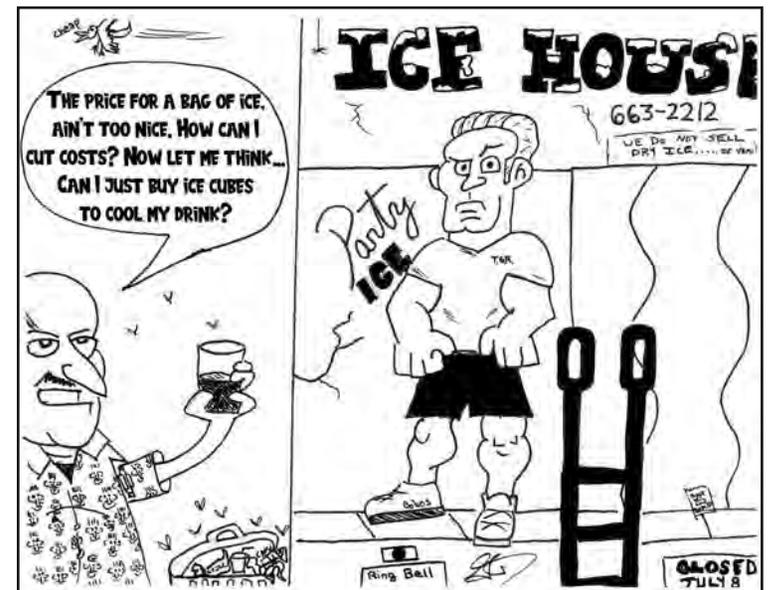
Gates of Praise Church of God, located at 6435 Wisteria Ave. in Pennsauken, is hosting a community gathering day on Sunday, Aug. 28, noon to 7:00 p.m.

This free event features hot dogs, burgers, chicken, corn on the cob, drinks, and free back to school materials. The first 20 children will also receive haircuts and hair braids.

Gates of Praise is also collecting brand new sneakers for both boys and girls for school. They are accepting sneaker donations through Saturday, Aug. 27.

For more information, or to learn how to donate a new pair of children's sneakers, contact Lady Mundell at ladyvmundell@gmail.com or (856) 979-1245.

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MAYOR'S Enjoying A Great Summer And Being Neighborly

COURTESY



By Jessica Rahfeh,
Mayor of
Pennsauken
Township

What a wonderful summer so far in Pennsauken! I was thrilled to be a part of our community's Summer Kick Off celebration, although I could wait a while before I get into a dunk tank again. And I appreciate all of the cards and emails from our senior citizens thanking us for last month's appreciation event at the Municipal Pool. The Township is hoping to put another great event for our seniors before the end of the year.

Our Parks and Recreation Department is offering plenty of fun activities for kids in July and August through our summer programs. And families in Pennsauken and Merchantville can cool off and enjoy themselves at our Municipal Pool on River Rd. There's still time to sign up, so be sure to visit

PennsaukenEvents.com for details.

Warmer weather means that more of our residents are opening up their windows and enjoying the outdoors. They're holding barbeques in their backyards or sitting on their front stoop and watching the kids play. It's also a great opportunity to be neighborly. During this time of year, our municipal staff does receive more phone calls from residents, who are concerned about loud parties and blaring music. While celebrating graduations, birthdays, or just having family and friends over is wonderful, please be mindful of those around you. Turn down the volume. People move from the city to suburbs like Pennsauken because of the peace and quiet our community offers. For our residents dealing with noise issues, you don't have to wait between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. to call the authorities. For general noise complaints, call the Pennsauken Township Police Department's Non-Emer-

gency Number at (856) 488-0080, ext. 2015, and request that an officer to be dispatched to the address.

Driving around town, I've noticed a lot of great, well-maintained homes and businesses in our community. I also see some issues that do need to be addressed. I encourage all residents and business owners to do their part to make sure their properties are landscaped. A home with a freshly cut lawn, cleaned up garden beds, and trimmed trees makes the whole neighborhood look better. And what better first impression for a business than to have a parking lot free of trash and weeds, with sidewalks clear of overgrowth? Let's do our part to be Pennsauken Proud of where we live and work.

For those with elderly or disabled residents living nearby who have trouble maintaining their properties, there's no better time to be neighborly and see how you can lend a hand. They'll appreciate the help and you'll be making a real dif-

ference in our community.

I've hit the halfway mark of my term as mayor, and there's so much that I've learned and experienced during this time. I'm working with our great communications staff to put together a recap video highlighting this great year that we'll be sharing with you soon through

our social media channels and Pennsauken Television.

On behalf of the entire Township Committee and our municipal staff, I hope everyone has a great Independence Day and enjoys all the wonderful things summer has to offer!

County Making Roadway Improvements On Union Avenue

On June 22, Camden County began a series of roadway improvements along Union Ave.

Running along Union from Park to Maple avenues, the scope of the project includes asphalt roadway milling and paving; installation of new stormwater inlets and piping to improve drainage; improvements to handicap ramps; traffic striping, signs, and raised pavement markers; and installation of concrete curbing, as well as the replacement of

in-kind driveway aprons, as needed.

This roadwork will utilize lane shifts, so no closures are anticipated.

The estimated duration of the roadwork improvements is 150 calendar days from the start date, weather permitting.

Project updates and additional information can be found at Camden County.com/Road Updates. For questions, contact the Camden County Public Works 24-hour hotline at (856) 566-2980.

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WAGSWORLD Catching The VW Bug With My First Beetle

By Bob Wagner,
AAP Columnist

I bought my first car this month, 54 years ago.

I was home from a tour in Viet Nam, out of the Army for two whole days. I had 2,200 bucks saved up, and pictured myself in a Mustang, cruising the beach road in LBI. My good bud, El Carter, drove me up Maple Ave. to Rice and Holman after dinner. We spent the next two hours agonizing over all the offerings on display and in the used car line out back. The upshoot was I could have a '66 hard-top, 6-cylinder auto, cover the insurance, and be left with \$6.

I was heading for Camden County Community College in September. I pictured myself coasting through school, chasing girls, and having a few bucks in my jeans for drinking, without having a part time job. The Mustang, and not the hot one I desired, would change my plans.

Carter and I left Holman's at closing time, still undecided. Carter, and most of my other high school buds, drove VW Beetles. I had traveled with them when home, and at the end of my high school years, although I was always on two wheels.

As we backed out onto Maple Ave.

and turned down Union heading home, we saw a tan VW backing down the driveway, right in front of us. The bug had a for sale sign in the windshield. The owner, a retired Army colonel, was bringing the car out front for good exposure. It was a 1961 Bug bought in Germany. It had little turn signals between the front door window and rear window. It was beige, low miles, and 600 bucks. I bought it after a ten-minute discussion. The owner left the tags and insurance on for a couple days, 'til I could get tags and title.

The bug was my own little hot rod, as I told my motor head friends. Everything a young man wanted: 4-speed, bucket seats, and dual exhaust. I was free to roam.

Two nights later, joining the family on vacation in LBI, I sat on the front steps, sipping on a cold beer, and watched my Uncle Al pull into the yard and dent my rear bumper. The distinguishing rear dent did make it easier to find in a full parking lot in the coming months.

College didn't work out real well. I had saved too much spending cash to avoid places that served beer. Six months later, I gave the VW to my dad, filled my duffel bag, and hitchhiked across America. He gave the bug to my sister, who used it for a few years, then sold it to a guy who made it into a dune buggy. To my best knowledge, it is still running in the pines out in Brick, N.J.

Since those days first home from the

Army, I have had way too many cars. I got that Mustang four or five times. I've had sports cars, hot rods, fishing and hunting wagons, and any number of trucks. I even tried replacing the VW, but the cars never made me feel as free, young, and wild as that first little beetle.

This July, I believe I will look for just one last car to recapture that feeling. What are the chances?

PHS Alumni Luncheon Held On July 20

The monthly Pennsauken High School Alumni Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, July 20, 1:00 p.m., at Marco's Restaurant at the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd.

Reservations are required as space is limited. Call Norma at (856) 220-5597 to reserve a space or for any questions.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS Munoz Receives Master's Degree From Centenary

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PENNSAUKEN JULY PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Township Committee (In Person)
6:00 p.m. Thurs., July 7 and 21
- Zoning Board of Adjustment (In Person)
7:00 p.m. Wed., July 6 and 20
- Planning Board (In Person)
6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 5 and 26
- Environmental Commission (Virtual)
7:00 p.m. Monday, July 18
- In-person public meetings are held on the second floor of the Pennsauken Municipal Building 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. (At the corner of Rt. 130 and Merchantville Ave.)

To learn more about virtual participation in the Environmental Commission Meeting, visit <https://www.facebook.com/PennsaukenEnviroComm>.

Phifer Eighth Graders Promoted To High School Class Of 2026



Phifer eighth graders walk into The Liacouras Center at Temple University to be promoted as the new high school Class of 2026.

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

On June 16, family and friends gathered to celebrate the new Class of 2026 at the Eighth Grade Promotion Exercises, held at The Liacouras Center at Temple University. Over 370 students processed in among cheers and applause, as they ended one part of their academic careers and prepared to make the next step to high school.

“This is our first time having our promotion at The Liacouras Center. We wanted to do something special for these students, since they endured so much over the past two years,” said Ms. Sandra Allen, principal of Howard M. Phifer Middle School. “Class of 2026, this has been another challenging year. We tried to make your eighth-grade year as enriching and memorable as possible.

“The Phifer teachers and staff and administration are going to miss you. We’ve watched you grow from scared little sixth graders to students who were quarantined for over a year, to eighth graders who hadn’t been in a full building in over a year. You handled all the challenges thrown at you and still managed to focus on your academics and pass your classes. We hope that we have prepared you and you are ready to move on to much bigger and better opportunities.

“Congratulations! Be proud of yourselves. Remember how hard you worked

to get here and continue to work. You can accomplish anything you want if you stay focused.”

Student Council representative Jasmine Thach addressed all in attendance on behalf of her peers in the Class of 2026. Her message was one of both appreciation and excitement for the future.

“First, I would like to give my thanks to all the teachers and staff at Phifer. Without your support, there’s little doubt that this year would have been much harder for all of us,” said Thach. “Secondly, I would like to give my thanks to all the teachers, parents, family members, and friends that have helped us along the way. Through thick and thin, you’ve stayed with us and pushed us to greater heights. Lastly, I would like to applaud my peers. You’ve made it, after everything we’ve been through.

“This chapter of our lives will always be unforgettable. Bring with you what you have now to the high school, or wherever you’re going. Let us continue to grow and continue to persevere through the challenges this life throws at us. Let’s keep going, past wherever we thought we could go.”

During the promotion exercises, over 40 students were recognized with various awards, honoring individuals for their leadership qualities, as well as their significant academic accomplishments. Fol-

lowing the awards, Pennsauken Board of Education President Nick Perry encouraged students to work hard and make positive decisions that will set them up for success in years to come.

“Your future is in your hands. You have to make that choice now,” said Mr. Perry. “Make sure that you work hard like have so far, that your parents are

proud of the work that you’ve done. The future is there for you; you just have to take advantage of it.”

Immediately following was the official introduction of students. Each eighth grader walked on stage when their name was called; and each was met with cheers and applause from their loved ones. Board of Education member Ms. Lisa

Eckel then spoke the words that these students and their families were waiting to hear.

“On behalf of the Board of Education of Pennsauken School District, I certify that these eighth graders have met all of the requirements set forth by Pennsauken School District and the State of

continued on page 29



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Pennsauken PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

By Joe Scavuzzo, Director,
Department of Public Works

I'm often hesitant to write about a topic related to Mother Nature when we have been on good terms lately! The town's Parks and Recreation complexes are looking good, and the Department of Public Works is staying on a good lawn cutting schedule. Trash collection is having a "normal" summer and things are busy, but quiet.

My wedding anniversary reminds me

Storm Preparedness And Clean Up At Public Works

of the 20-minute storm that created a month's worth of clean up just days before in 2015. We are in the time of year where these storms creep up and bring some serious wind. These violent storms seem to occur more regularly and there is a need to help Pennsauken residents understand how Public Works is allowed to assist in clean-up efforts during and following a storm. In any event, if your property sustains damage (house, car, shed, etc.) as a result of a storm uprooting a

tree, regardless of who owns the tree, you should contact your homeowner's insurance company and file a claim. During each storm, we provide an unfortunate education to residents who believe that the downed-tree owner is responsible for its clean-up and repair.

Here's how the Pennsauken Department of Public Works helps during this time.

Yard Debris Collection On Wednesdays

We ask that residents with only a fallen branch or two to clean up utilize the normal yard debris collection. This helps our staff focus on the large debris piles and lets South Jersey Sanitation handle some of the work during their contractual obligations. As a reminder, branches/twigs that can be cut or snapped into smaller pieces can be placed in a trash can (not recycling bucket) for Wednesday collection. No need to bundle if you only have a small amount. Bundling may take more time if you have a larger amount of debris, but you can be sure that it will be gone by Wednesday with this regularly scheduled collection.

Dragging Downed Branches For Curbside Pick Up

A majority of cases with minor storm

debris will leave downed trees/branches that do not cause damage to properties but leave behind a significant amount of tree/brush debris that the average homeowner cannot "bundle and tie" per our Wednesday yard debris collection guidelines. In these instances, homeowners performing this cleanup within a couple days of the storm can drag the debris to the curb and contact the Department of Public Works office to be placed on the storm clean-up list. Depending on the severity and quantity of these calls, we will use the following weeks to collect from the street. This service will always occur after all streets and Township properties are cleared. We forgo some of our normal responsibilities to assign grass cutters to help residents in these instances. My economics classes call this an "opportunity cost," where we must give up one thing to get another thing we previously did not have. In this case, it's a service we do not perform daily and allocate manpower to the greater need. Thank goodness these storms only come a few times a year!

Here's some scenarios that occur during these times for future reference:

If a tree is blocking the roadway and no power wires are down, Public Works tree crews will clear the street. We are typically notified by County Dispatch, resulting from a call from residents after an

officer responds to the scene and reports back. This occurs 24/7 and we will respond to ensure the road is passable to emergency responders. The only exception to this is for trees that fall on state highways.

If a tree is blocking the roadway and power wires are down or within 15 feet of the tree, Public Works cannot safely cut and remove the tree. Due to the extreme electrical shock/electrocution hazard that is potentially present, our staff is not permitted to perform this work. In these instances, the police notify PSE&G to respond, along with their contracted and trained tree crew to cut up the tree with PSE&G staff on site to ensure electrical safety. This can take time, sometimes

continued on page 24

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More Than A Business: Countrywide Home Care Creates A Family By Choice

“A family by choice.” That’s how Anna Adler, executive director and owner of Countrywide Home Care, describes the approach of her staff to serving clients throughout Southern New Jersey.

“I wanted to create something different: a business with a huge heart,” explains Adler. “I have lived in this community since I was 13 and was working in home care for over 20 years. I realized that no home health care agency really had the community in mind. I needed to create something special that truly took care of elderly and disabled clients, as well as those who care for them. I treat every aide and client like family.”

In the last two and a half years, Countrywide in New Jersey has expanded to two locations, with over 400 aides serving 750 clients in places like Camden, Pennsauken, Glassboro, Gloucester, Sicklerville, Williamstown, and a variety of communities in Cumberland County. Certified Home Health Aides provide

care right in the clients’ homes, assisting with bathing, toileting, ambulation, transferring clients in and out of beds and wheelchairs, grooming, food preparation, laundry, light housekeeping, and errands. The aides also provide companionship and a caring ear ready to listen.

“Our staff forms valuable connections with our clients. So many people are alone with no family and no one to talk to,” says Adler. “And with staff who speak languages like Spanish, Russian, Korean, Hebrew, and Hindi, we can relate to them in their native tongues.”

Countrywide also has a strong partnership with the Jewish Federation to take care of aging Holocaust survivors. “It’s such a gift to be able to do something for these people,” adds Adler. “I personally meet with each survivor we care for; and each aide who cares for these clients learns about the Holocaust as part of their training.”

As part of her commitment to serving the community, Adler is very hands

on with the families she serves, as well as her employees.

“We’re a family and families are supposed to take care of each other,” explains Adler. “We make sure that our community is fed. We get deliveries twice of month of chicken, peanut butter, and rice. We stock up the freezers for the clients and the aides. We make sure that everybody has an opportunity to get to work. If there’s an emergency and an aide doesn’t have transportation, we’ll come get them. We also offer clients and their families an on-call service that’s available 24/7, with a live person on the phone.

“I love the community, and this is what is important to me. Countrywide is my life. I will do anything for everyone. We are a business with a huge heart.”

Countrywide Home Care is located at 5287 Marlton Pike, Rt. 70, Suite C, in Pennsauken. For more information, call 856-661-1000 or visit countrywidehomecare.org.



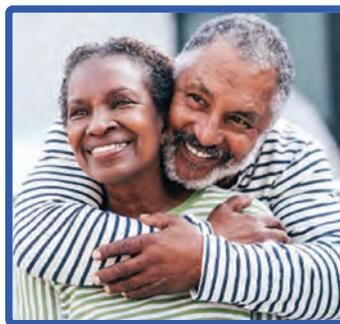
The staff of Countrywide Home Care: “A family by choice.”



Countrywide Home Care strives to add value to peoples’ lives by providing them with optimal care. By treating people with dignity, and respecting their space, privacy, and beliefs we aim to provide the best care possible. Our promise is to hire people that are not only certified and skilled, but also caring, kind, and empathetic. We are here to work and live within the community that we care for.

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- Incontinence Care
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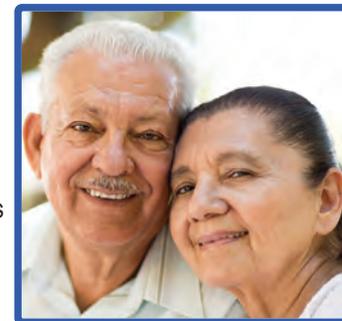


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Countrywide Home Care se esfuerza por agregar valor a la vida de las personas brindándoles una atención óptima. Al tratar a las personas con dignidad y respetar su espacio, privacidad y creencias, nuestro objetivo es brindar la mejor atención posible. Nuestra promesa es contratar personas que no solo estén certificadas y capacitadas, sino que también se preocupen, sean amables y empáticas. Estamos aquí para trabajar y vivir dentro del.

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Evening Membership Department of the Woman's Club of Merchantville Sandy DeSimone Memorial Scholarship

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Jeilyan Pagan

MPWC Walter V. Kurkian Memorial Award

India Allen

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Camille Guerrero

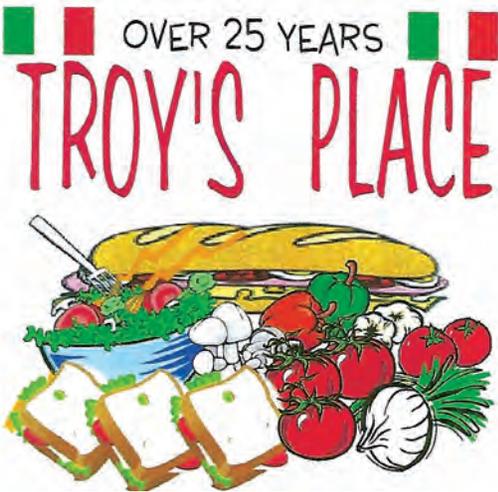
Pennsauken Custodian, Grounds, and Maintenance Local 2300 Award

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Nicholas Gonzalez

continued on page 16



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Summer Is Here For The 2021-22 School Year

By Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi, MEd², M.S., M.B.S., M.A.², Ed.D., Ph.D., Superintendent, Pennsauken Public Schools; and the Pennsauken Board of Education: Nick Perry, President; JoAnn Young, Vice President; Lisa Eckel; Michael Hurley; Maria James; Diane Johnson; Samer John Jarboub-Rafeh; Scott La Vine; and Orlando Viera

We would like to congratulate everyone on the completion of another successful school year. The return of full, in-person learning was filled with many challenges, but our entire staff, as well as our amazing school families, rose to the occasion. We congratulate you all for your hard work and a job well done.

Pennsauken Public Schools also celebrated both the Class of 2022 and the Class of 2026 at the beautiful Liacouras Center on the campus of Temple University on June 16. So many family members were on hand to cheer on their

students during two wonderful ceremonies, as these special young people moved on to an exciting new chapter of their lives. We are extremely proud of our high school graduates, as well as our incoming freshman class, and expect great things from all of them!

This month, our staff is excited to continue to strengthen the minds and bodies of our children during our academic and athletic summer programs. We also value our partnership with families, as we ensure a plethora of opportunities for our students.

Pennsauken Public Schools has many exciting new programs we are working on offering our students this fall. We are launching a new Career and Technical Education (CTE) baking program, partnered with Puratos. It will be the only Puratos Baking School in the United States

of America. This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity, where students will have international job options in the baking industry. In addition, Pennsauken High School will be creating a Fashion and Design CTE program beginning September of 2022.

We are also hard at work putting the finishing touches on our Roosevelt STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Magnet School for the 2022-2023 school year. The Board of Education has rejuvenated the existing Roosevelt Elementary School into a K-8 STEM school through our 2018 Bond Referendum. Our STEM school will encourage learners to put their textbooks down and allow them to experiment, make mistakes, and then use their experiences to formulate a solution. The students at Roosevelt STEM school will

be challenged to think critically and use technological innovations to help them succeed in their future endeavors.

This summer, Pennsauken Public Schools will not only be providing important academic and athletic opportu-

nities for our students, but also preparing for another exciting school year in September. Working together – and despite all the obstacles we have faced – we will continue to help our children grow and succeed both today and beyond.



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Jacqueline Morton, Owner

Summer Fun From Pennsauken Parks and Recreation

Children in Pennsauken and Merchantville can add more fun and excitement to their summer months with entertaining and educational programs offered through Pennsauken's Department of Parks and Recreation.

Bowling

This fun camp will be at the amazing Pinsetter Bowling Center on Maple Ave. in Pennsauken. Basic bowling instruction will be provided by qualified instructors and skills competitions for prizes will be held the last day of the camp. The program runs from 10:00 a.m. to noon, Aug. 8-12, and is for kids ages 7-14. The fee is \$65 for the week and includes shoes and ball.

Creative Theater

The very popular Creative Theater Class runs from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on July 11-15. Children, ages 7-14, will learn stage movement, vocal projection, character study and improvisational games. They will create their own story and a video performance will be shown for friends and family on the last day of class. The cost is \$50 for the week and class is run by a professional entertainer/performer.

Dancing

Come and join the fun for an introduction to dance at DeMarco Dance Center, 177 South Centre St. in Merchantville. Camp will be from July 11-14, 10:00 a.m. to noon, for ages 7-14. This beginner class is run by a certified instructor. Cost is \$40 per person.

Ice Skating

The Learn to Ice Skate camp will be held at the Virtua Health Pennsauken Skate Zone on River Rd. Children ages 2-15 will learn basic skating tech-

niques for figure skating or hockey. The program is offered from 8:45 to 10:00 a.m. Aug. 1-5. Cost is \$40 per child and includes skate rental.

Junior Fire Academy

The Junior Fire Academy will be held at the Bloomfield Fire House, 5301 Lexington Ave. Children ages 10-14 will be introduced to the work of a firefighter and develop the skills of teamwork, time management, and responsibility in a fun and education environment. Attendees will participate in short classroom sessions and complete multiple hands-on activities and field assignments. The academy will be held from July 18-22, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Wednesday; and 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Cost is \$50 per child and includes t-shirt, hat, all required materials, and safety equipment, as well as water, snacks, and refreshments. Lunch will be provided Thursday and Friday. The weeklong academy will conclude with a graduation ceremony on Friday at 3:00 p.m.

Multi-Media Art Creations

Explore an array of mediums in this art class that includes clay, fiber, paper, jewelry, and found objects. Individual expression will be highly encouraged. This class is all about thinking outside the box. Class will be held at the PYAA Field House on Elm Ave., July 18-22 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The fee for this program is \$45. For kids ages 7-13.

NEW!

Nature Camp

This brand-new camp gives children ages 12 to 16 a chance to enjoy unique outdoor activities, including kayaking to Petty's Island and exploring Tippin's Pond. Nature Camp runs Aug. 8-11, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$50 per child.

NEW!

Pickleball

Come learn the fun, all ages sport at Pennsauken's new Pickleball Courts on River Rd.! Pickleball classes are open to children ages 7 to 14 and will run 9:30 a.m. to noon, July 11-14. The cost is \$45 per participant.

Sports

The Ike Willis Sports Camps are sponsored by the Pennsauken Parks and Recreation Department and are open to children ages 7 to 14. Each camp runs from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The dates and costs for each program are as follows: Soccer, July 18-22, \$40; Basketball, July 25-29, \$40; and Baseball/Softball, Aug. 1-5, \$50. Soccer Camp is held at the Pennsauken Community Recreation Complex on Westfield Ave. Baseball/Softball Camp will be held at the field on Elm Ave. Basketball Camp will be held at Camden County Technical Schools, Pennsauken Campus.

FOR FAMILIES

Join The Municipal Pool

The Parks and Recreation Department is accepting membership applications and fees for the 2022 pool season. Appointments are required to sign up for the pool. To schedule an appointment, call (856) 665-1000 x0.

The Municipal Pool, located at 6100 River Rd., is open to Pennsauken and Merchantville residents only and all applicants must provide a photo ID, current utility bill, and birth certificate and report card for children. The pool is currently open 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on weekends and holidays, and from noon to 7:30 p.m. on weekdays. Pool fees and other information are available at <https://pennsauken.gov/content/pennsauken-municipal-pool> as well as through the Pennsauken Parks and Recreation Department.

TO REGISTER

Registration for most summer programs is ongoing at the Pennsauken Municipal Building, Rt. 130 and Merchantville Ave. Forms are available at the municipal building from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Program listings and downloadable registration forms are available online at <https://pennsauken.gov/content/summer-programs>. Payment is accepted in cash, check, or money order. For more information, contact the Department of Parks and Recreation at jvazquez@pennsauken.gov or (856) 665-1000 ext. 151.



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- Must pass DOT Physical & Drug Test
- Must pass CDL Permit Written Test P/S Endorsement
- Background Check

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS

WITH CURRENT CDL CLASS B & REQUIRED P/S Endorsements:

- Must Pass Drug Test
- Background Check



For More Information call 856-662-8502

Congratulations To Pennsauken High School's Graduating Class Of 2022!

Edden Abanyie	Syianni Cook	Angeleah Hartman	Carly Marino	Samia Permaul *†	Nyrel Stevens
Donovan Acetti	Sydney Cooper	Amirako Hawkins	Hailey Marrero	Eithan Perry	Zaniyah Stokes
Aniyah Acevedo	Mark'Keya Corbitt-Wall	Tymir Hawkins	Juan Marrero	Stephanie Pham *	Megan Stone †
Rashad Acrey	Ricardo Cortazar	Adrian Hernandez	Jean Marte Rodriguez	Ashley Polanco Salguero	Naomi Swint
Isabela Adames	Briah Covington	Danny Hernandez	Luis Martinez	Michael Pollard	Sirod Talbott
Nathan Agron	Ziair Crawford	Jayda Hernandez	Pedro Martinez	Moncerrath Popoca	Noah Talley
Eliezer Albino Ortiz	Giovanni Cruz	Felix Hinson	Guadalupe Martinez Polito	Jihad Presbery	Alexander Taylor
Jose Aldana	Kimberly Cruz	Jeanna Hoang	Daisy Martinez-Alameda	Nicholas Probasco	Jalen Taylor
India Allen	Hannah Dahl †	Michelle Hoang	Stacy Mateo	Youssef Rafeh †	Daniel Tellez Garcia
Johady Almanzar	Janell Darby	Basil Holmes	Marcia Mejia Avila	Ariyana Ramgeet	Nevaeh Terrell
Yadhira Almonte	Anthony Davis	Sarah Hopkins	Alexa Mendez	Shantal Ramos Peralta	Camtu Thach
Carlo Angione	Micah Daye	Kalayah Horne †	Keni Mendez	Surrayah Rasheed	Thon Thach
Victor Aponte	Brooke DePietropolo	Anthony Howard	Jose Mercado-Andeliz	Grace Raymond	Jaheim Thomas
Alexander Arce	Devin DePietropolo	Rebecca Hudson	Kabera Miller	Jadiza Reece	Kenniya Thomas
Nicolas Arce	Marlena Diaz †	Zarria Hughes	Dyannalee Molina	Jada Reese	Na'Jai Thomas
Kenedi Atwell	Quandale Dingle	Whitney Huynh *	Victor Molina	Angilese Reyes	Bryce Tibbs
Jose Azcona	Nhien Dinh *†	Sania Ingram	Jordi Monegro-Perdomo	Ghael Reyes	Paola Tirado-Munoz
Linda Azcona	Anisa Dizzley	Angelys Irizarry	Alfonso Morales	Miguel Reyes Mendez	Mariangeliz Tolentino Tirado
Angelis Badillo	Giao Do *	Christian Jaquez	Arlene Morales	Maysaa Richardson	Reudy Torres
Jade Baisden	Melody Drumgoole	Jaylene Jaquez Valdez	Cesar Morales	Luiz Otavio Richter	Linh Tra
Doraine Baker	Anthony Dworniczak	Dominic Jenkins	Daniel Morales	Ricardo Rios	Lianna Tran †
Leslye Balbuena-Sosa	Adryan Edwards	Christopher John	Janira Morales *	Luis Rivas	Lily Tran †
Ethan Baldwin	Logan Endes *†	Anthony Johnson	Jennifer Morales	Angel Rivera	Linda Tran *†
Peniel Bartels †	London English	Caron Johnson	Manin Nan *	Geovon Rivera	Steven Truong
Chance Bates	Aleks Espinal	Ebony Johnson *†	Ciyani Nelson-White	Javen Rivera	Justin Ulewicz
Pryce Bates	Jonathan Espinosa-Garcia	Michael Johnson	Thanh Ngo	Luis Rivera	Yahir Valentin Medina
Sharee Battle	Damir Evans	Nyajia Johnson Lewis	Andrew Nguyen *†	Perla Rivera Hernandez	Alex Valle
Shanique Bennett	Maleek Evans	Aniya Jones	Hung Nguyen	Shakira Rivers Watkins	Victoria Van *†
Trishauna Bennett	Casey Fernandez	Zafir Jones	Huu Nguyen *	Rayonni Robinson	Anastasia Vicente
Emmanuel Benoit-Pena	Yubel Fernandez Beltre	Courtney Kenner	Johnny Nguyen	Makayla Rodgers	Nathan Villanueva
Hasain Biddle	Eric Flores	Nika Kheoshvili	Khac-Duy Nguyen	Ashely Rodriguez	Layla Villaronga
Tionna Blalock	Donata Forte	Alex Khong	Ngan Nguyen *	Ciani Rodriguez	Matthew Wabs
Dennis Blanco-Flores	Jackson Fravel	Zyana King	Stephanie Nguyen	Ciani Rodriguez	Jenlee Walker
William Bland	Tylik Fryar	Birhanu Kramer	Steven Nguyen	Gina Rodriguez	Tatiana Walker
Seamus Blessinger	Julianna Fuentes	Davika Kramer	Tiffany Nguyen *†	Isveiry Rodriguez	Matthew Wallace
Bryan Bonilla Melendez	Jeremiah Gadson	Matthew Kunchick	Vincent Nguyen	Renny Rodriguez	Kyeem Warthen
Keith Bowles	Carlos Galvan	David Kursman	Vu Nguyen	Sianie Rodriguez	Aliyah Wearing
Rebecca Brejcha	Angel Garcia	Emily Ladriye Valdez	Tianysha Nieves	Joshua Roman	Rashanae Wesley
Nicholas Brice	Joshua Garden	Amiya Laliberte	Jennyvi Nolasco	Isnardy Romero Ortega	Savannah West
Noah Brown †	Chris Genao	Aslhy Lantigua	Jhan Nunez	Jaydon Rosa	Brelan Whitmore
William Brunges	Amiya Gibson-Gardner	Nhi Lao	Liam O'Neill	Manuela Rosa Diaz	Justin Whitney
Antonio Bucciero	Tyler Glenn-Hayward	Lynn Le	Alec Olusa	Brianna Rosario	Alyssa Williams
London Burgos	Tyler Glodowski	Ryan Le †	Sharynet Ortiz	Franely Rosario	De'Shaun Williams
Shanaya Burnett	Eliel Gomez	Sean Lech	Aidan Orzechowski	Kayla Ruano	Micah Williams
Tamaris Burns	Anthony Gonzales	Madison Lewis	Jeilyan Pagan *†	Gian Rugama	Naomi Williams
Kaylah Burton	Imani Gonzalez	Rashir Loman	Jormaries Pagan	Jesus Salazar	Nicholas Wolf
Johan Caceres	Jaylem Gonzalez	Emely Lopez	Nadir Paige	Saniya Sammons	Dinh Xa *†
Edwin Camacho	Nicholas Gonzalez †	Malychi Lopez	Aniyah Patterson	Angel Santamaria	Kenny You
Jasmine Camacho *	Wilianys Gonzalez Massa	Michael Lor	Dymond Patterson	Karisma Santana	Jamar Young
Eva Capellan	Deshawn Graham	Matthew Loyola	Katherine Peralta	Maria Santos	Kylie Young
Connor Casey	Leslie Granados Ortiz	Luis Lozada	Lisbeth Peralta	Daniel Sconiers	Jessica Zarate
Yasmine Castillo	E'Amiah Grice	Alexis Lozano	Jhaiden Perdomo	Anthony Scott	
Dallas Castro	Hannah Griffin	Aaron Luu	Alia Perez	Evan Slawinski	
Frank Castro-Vargas	Jearayma Guadarrama	Anh Ly *	Cynthia Perez	Aniyah Smith	*Top 20 in Class
Richard Chester	Camille Guerrero †	Kayla Ma	Jenly Perez	Fernan Sosa	†National Honor Society
Isabella Collier	Michael Guzman	Eman Mack	Shadel Perez	Azzure Soto	
Heaven Colon	Caleb Hamilton	Emmanuel Mairena	Angelieze Perez Olivares	Yesenia Soto	
Yamil Colon *	Malayha Hardman	Hunter Malinoski	Erick Perez-Genao	Trae Steed †	

Second Graders Learn About Native American Rug Making

In Ms. Santiago's class at Fine School, second graders had fun learning about Native American history, art and culture, especially how goat fur is used to make rugs. They furthered their understanding of point of view, as they read the story, "The Goat in the Rug." Students then wrote from the perspective of their pet or stuffed animal. The reader learns, along with Geraldine the goat, about the care and pride involved in the weaving of a Navajo rug, and about cooperation between friends. As a final activity, students created weaved paper rugs!



Fine second graders created weaved paper rugs as part of their lesson on Native American history, art, and culture.

Learning How To Make Birdhouses At Carson

Ms. Vance's second and third graders received a visit from a very special person! Her brother, Mr. Ken Trifaro, spent an afternoon doing a special project with students.

Mr. Trifaro taught the class how to make their own birdhouses. First, he taught the class about safety when doing any building project. Mr. Ken even brought each student a pair of safety glasses! Next, students got to choose from three different bird house designs. Mr. Ken showed them how to assemble their birdhouses. Finally, the students painted their birdhouses and applied

stickers to them!

Now the class is waiting for some feathery tenants to move in!

Mr. Ken Trifaro, brother of Carson teacher Ms. Vance, helped second and third graders make their own birdhouses!



Pennsauken High School Seniors Receive Well-Deserved Awards continued from page 12

PHS Alumni Assoc. Award (cont.)

Kalayah Horne
Huu Nguyen
Lily Tran

Pennsauken High School Class of 1988 Reunion/Alumni Committee Award

Alexa Mendez
Nicholas Wolff

Pennsauken High School Leo Club Award

Victoria Van
Andrew Nguyen

Pennsauken High School PTA Award

Peniel Bartels
Trishauna Bennett
Hannah Dahl
Jeilyan Pagan
Joshua Roman
Megan Stone

Pennsauken Historical Society Social Studies Award

Lily Tran
Logan Endes

Pennsauken Lions Club Award

Andrew Nguyen

Pennsauken Lions Club

Lois V. Rossi Memorial Award
Samia Permaul

Pennsauken Stages Award

Janell Darby
Grace Raymond

Phi Beta Kappa Book Award

Stephanie Nguyen

Raymond F. Wiggins Jazz Scholarship

Anthony Davis
Nicholas Wolff

Rebecca S. McDonald Award

Paola Tirado-Munoz

Retired Teachers of Pennsauken High School Award

Janell Darby
Grace Raymond

Robert R. Nicholson Award

Andrew Nguyen

Robert "Ike" Willis Departmental Career-Technical Education Award

Isabela Adames

Robert "Ike" Willis Departmental Health and Physical Education Award

Ngan Nguyen

Robert "Ike" Willis Departmental Language Arts/World Language Award

Nhien Dinh

Robert "Ike" Willis Departmental Mathematics Award

Logan Endes

Robert "Ike" Willis Departmental Science Award

Anh Ly

Robert "Ike" Willis Departmental Social Studies Award

Jasmine Camacho

Robert "Ike" Willis Departmental Special Education Award

Paola Tirado-Munoz

Robert "Ike" Willis Departmental Visual/Performing Arts Award

Grace Raymond

Robert "Ike" Willis Memorial Scholarship Female Athlete Award

Ebony Johnson

Robert "Ike" Willis Memorial Scholarship Male Athlete Award

Steven Truong

Today I Smiled Award

Makayla Rodgers

U.S. Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award

Marlena Diaz
Youssef Rafeh

Phillies Honor Carson Student Le'Anna Munoz

On June 4, Carson School third grader Le'Anna Munoz was honored at the Phillies game as a winner of the Most Improved Reader Award from the Phillies Phanatic About Reading program.

Le'Anna was nominated by her teacher, Mr. Sax, and was one of only 10 students selected as winners out of more than 64,000 students in the program. Congratulations!



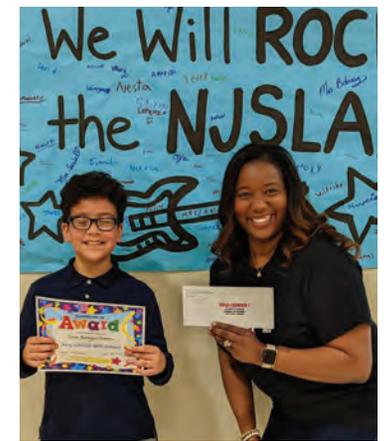
Carson third grader Le'Anna Munoz was recognized as a Most Improved Reader by the Phillies Phanatic About Reading program.

Celebrating Asian Culture At Phifer



As part of a special assembly put together by Phifer's Asian American Association, students demonstrated different activities from their culture, including "bamboo jumping."

Delair Celebrates Reflex Champ



Johan Rodriguez Ramirez is one of Delair's Reflex Champs for 2022!

Another Reflex Champ, Johan Rodriguez Ramirez, received his award under the NJSLA Banner 2022, signed by all third graders this year! Kudos to Johan and the many other Reflex Champions that have been awarded this year for fact fluency at Delair School! You rock!

PENNSAUKEN SCHOOL NEWS

For further information about the articles or events published in the Pennsauken School News section of "All Around Pennsauken" please contact:

Nicole Roberts, Editor
nicole.roberts@pennsauken.net

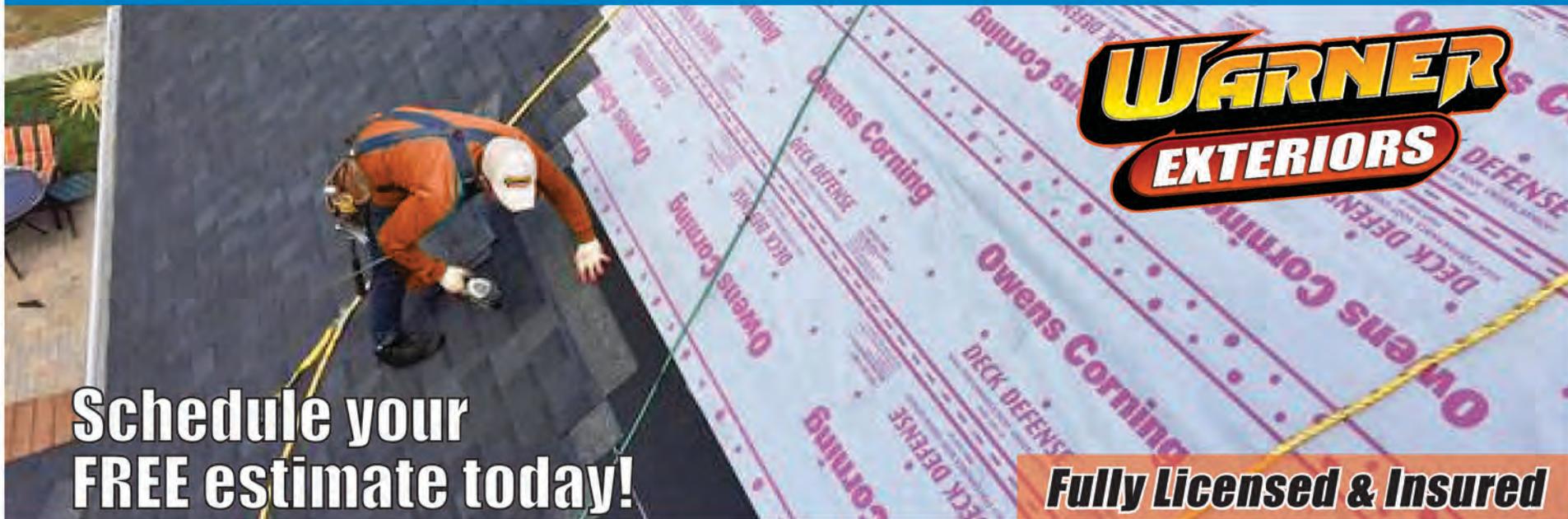
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PUBLIC SAFETY National Night Out Held August 2



By Pennsauken Township Police Chief Philip Olivo

Writing this article on June 13, I can hardly believe that National Night Out is right around the corner! Last year was the first time the Pennsauken Police Department and Pennsauken Fire Department held National Night Out at the Soccer

Complex together. The result of the combined effort was one of the best National Night Out events in the area.

This year, we expect to provide another great experience for the members of our community. National Night Out is all about building and reinforcing the relationship between public safety and the residents we serve.

You can expect many of the same activities as last year, including demon-

strations from our first responders, public safety equipment and vehicles on display, food trucks, a DJ, and many other activities.

National Night Out this year will be on Tuesday, Aug. 2, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Soccer Complex on Westfield Ave. Please come out to meet with the men and women whose job it is to protect the residents of Pennsauken Township every day. We look forward to seeing you!

Pennsauken Town Watch Moves To Larger Space

With an increase in community participation, the July 13 Town Watch Meeting will be held in the training room at the Pennsauken Township Police Station, 2400 Bethel Ave. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, visit the "Pennsauken Town Watch" Facebook Group.

Hertline Retires From Police Force After Twenty-Five Years Of Service

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

On July 1, Officer William Hertline, III, badge #159, retired from the Pennsauken Township Police Department after 25 years of service to the community. On June 24, a large crowd of police officers, firefighters, EMTs, and municipal staff gathered at the police station to give Officer Hertline a proper sendoff.

"These people here for you, it's a testament to how important you are to everybody," said Pennsauken Police Chief Phil Olivo. "On behalf of the police department, we're going to miss you, we're all proud of you and we're happy for you."

Officer Hertline was hired by the Pennsauken Police Department on March 31, 1997, as a public information officer. He then moved up to a Class I officer on November 1, 1997. Officer Hertline was made a full-time police officer on August 9, 1999, and was assigned to



Congratulations to Officer William Hertline, III, who officially retired after 25 years of dedicated service to the Pennsauken Township Police Department.

the Patrol Division. Officer Hertline has served in several areas of the Pennsauken Police Department. He has been a member of the Traffic Division, Bicycle Unit and Motor Unit. Among his other duties at the department, he assisted in vehicle design, and was an instructor for the Junior Police Academy. For the last

continued on page 22

Pennsauken Police Investigation Leads To Arrests

On Thursday June 16, 2022, at approximately 2:30 p.m., Pennsauken Police investigated the report of a group of suspicious males wearing ski masks.

Police located the males in the area of Herbert and Stockton avenues. During the encounter, one firearm was recovered, and two juveniles were arrested.

Between the observations and actions

of vigilant members of the community, and the decisive action of Pennsauken Police Officers, another firearm was removed from the street.

This investigation demonstrated the importance of the police and the community working hand in hand to keep everyone safe.



Pennsauken Sewerage Authority

1250 John Tipton Blvd., Pennsauken, NJ 08110

Phone: (856) 663-5542 • Fax: (856) 663-5718 • 24 Hour Emergency: (856) 662-0686

Important Customer Information

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the sanitary sewage collection system in our service area. The sanitary sewage collection system is made up of main lines, force mains and pumping stations.

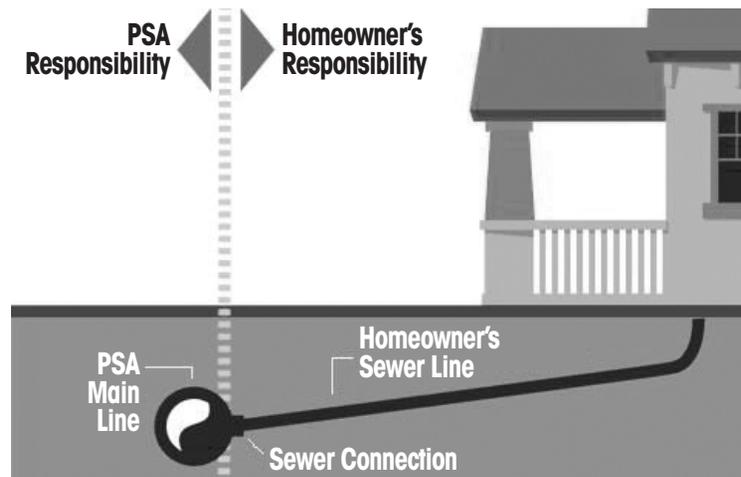
The homeowner owns and therefore is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the lateral line from their dwelling up to and including the connection to the main line.

The rules and regulations of the Pennsauken Sewerage Authority require a

back flow prevention device commonly referred to as a "back check valve" be installed whenever plumbing fixtures are located below street level, such as in the basement. PSA strongly recommends all our customers have a back check valve installed to prevent contamination in the event of a main line stoppage.

The discharge of water collected in a sump pit to the sanitary sewage collection system is prohibited.

Cooking grease poured down the drain can cause a blockage of the lateral line. Please dispose of grease properly.



Think Twice About What You're Flushing

Baby wipes, disinfectant wipes, paper towels, and even "flushable" wipes, can't go down the toilet.

Please do not flush baby wipes, "flushable" wipes, disinfectant wipes or paper towels down the toilet.

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority is asking residents to think twice about what they are flushing down their

toilets.

Paper towels, tissues, napkins, disinfectant wipes, and supposedly "flushable" wipes should not be flushed down the toilet.

We are seeing an increase in volume,

which is to be expected given the number of people staying in their homes as part of efforts to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority remains available 24 hours a day to assist

residents. We will respond to all requests for assistance and will advise the homeowner of our findings by telephone. If you require assistance call (856) 662-0686.

REMINDER: CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR NEXT PAYMENT IS DUE THIS MONTH.

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YOU WILL NEED YOUR
ACCOUNT ID AND PIN.

LASTLY YOU CAN ALSO MAKE
A PAYMENT USING YOUR
OWN ONLINE BANKING.

■
If there is a sewer emergency, call the emergency telephone number (856-662-0686) and someone will respond to the call. If you need to contact us for information, you can email customerservice@psewer.com and we will respond in a timely fashion.

If you are having a financial hardship and will be unable to pay your bill on time, or in full, please contact us at (856) 663-5542 to make payment arrangements. A simple 5-minute call could save you the inconvenience of being without water as well as the shut off fee which is currently \$75. Please do not send post dated checks to PSA without prior arrangements.

ANIMAL CONTROL The Dog Days Of Summer: Keeping Pets Happy And Safe During Vacation

Summer is finally here, and with that comes vacation: a time to spend with friends and family, enjoying the beach, fishing, boating, waterparks, camping, and other fun activities. An important part of planning your summer vacation is making sure your pet is safe and happy while you are away. There are many options available to pet owners during this peak vacation time.

Bring Your Pet Along – If you are planning a day trip that’s only a few hours from your home, consider bringing Fido along for the ride! There are many hotels and motels that are pet friendly. Sites such as BringFido.com provide a wealth of resources for traveling with your pet.

Pet Sitters – If your pet gets stressed by unfamiliar places or just traveling in general, consider using a pet sitter or family member that will come to your home. Pet sitters allow you to keep your pet in their regular routine in their own, comfortable space. Pet sitters should visit

your house a few times prior to your vacation to ensure your pet is not threatened and to allow for you to review your pet’s daily routine and provide all emergency contact information to the sitter. Pet sitters can be found through word-of-mouth, local social media, and sites such as Rover.com.

In-Home Boarding – There are many places that offer pet boarding at a pet sitter’s home. Advantages to in-home boarding allows more individualized attention and interaction with the homeowner given they limit the number of pets boarded at the same time. In-Home boarding can also be a more affordable option to kennels.

Kennels – If you are not comfortable with having someone come into your home, boarding your pet at a kennel is another option during your vacation. Many kennels provide spacious sleeping areas, group and individual play time, and pet services such as grooming. Kennels do

require certain vaccination requirements, so it’s best to call ahead to ensure you have all the necessary paperwork from your veterinarian. Setting up day visits at the kennel prior your vacation to familiarize your pet is a great way to introduce the kennel and its staff. And bringing your pet’s favorite toys, bed, or blanket helps ease the anxiety during your pet’s stay.

How you care for your pet during vacation time should be based on the type of animal you have, their personality, and what is the most comfortable and affordable option for you. Whichever option you choose, be sure to always check references. With some planning and research, your pet will enjoy their time while you are away!

To report a lost or found animal, or for other animal related questions, please reach out to New Jersey Animal Control at (609) 685-3384, njacoffice@gmail.com, or on Facebook @NJAnimalControl.

Pennsauken Township Launches Community Cat Trap Rental Program

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Pennsauken’s trap rental program is designed to help residents manage community cat populations in town. Traps are available by appointment only, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., at the Township Municipal Building, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. During the appointment, residents will receive instruction on

the proper use and deployment of the trap. Individuals must provide proof of residency in the form of a valid photo ID, as well as a recent household bill.

Participants are responsible for maintaining and operating the trap; humanely capturing community cats on their property; securing appointments for the cats they trap to be spayed/neutered; and be-

fore and after care of the animal.

If a Township trap is lost, stolen, or damaged, a fee will be assessed so that the trap can be replaced.

To set up an appointment to obtain a trap, visit <https://pennsauken.gov/content/trap-rental-submission-form>.

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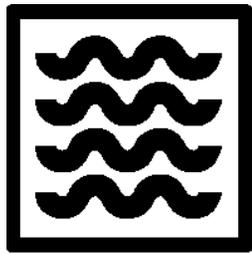
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MPWC WATERLINES

Payment Assistance Is Available To Those Who Qualify

If you need help paying your water bill, apply for aid by using this QR code to begin the application process under the DCA's Low-Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP).

If you would like to discuss options for installment payments, please contact our office immediately. Applying for an installment agreement with the MPWC will allow you to pay past due balances without accruing interest and additional penalties.

Our staff is standing by Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. to assist you with repayment options by phone at (856) 663-0043. If you prefer to visit us in person, be reminded that our lobby closes at 3:00 p.m. each day.

You may also continue to mail your payments to us, leave them in our drop box, or take advantage of our online or pay-by-phone systems.



If you'd like to pay online, please visit our website at www.mpwc.com and select the yellow button that

labeled "Access Online Bill Pay." To make a payment by phone, please dial (844) 611-4016.

Online payments should be made directly through the MPWC's payment site.

Online payments should be made directly through the MPWC's payment site.

When paying your bill online, be reminded that the MPWC can only verify payments in real time if you pay through at our payment site. You can use this QR code and your phone's camera to link directly to our payment site, or you can visit www.mpwc.com and click on the yellow button that reads "Access Online Bill Pay." Payments will be posted to your account on the next business day. If you are in danger of service termination, you may make an online payment and then contact our office, where a Customer Support Representative can log on and verify that your payment is pending.

Keep in mind that when using a web browser to search for how to pay MPWC bills online, you will often be directed to third party sights. Those payments can take up to 10 business days to reach our office.

THE QUICKEST AND SAFEST WAY TO PAY YOUR BILLS IS



DIRECTLY WITH THE MPWC EITHER IN PERSON OR VIA OUR SECURED PAYMENT SITE at our website or by using our Payment QR Code!

Please note that if you choose to pay through your bank's online "Bill Pay" option, processing will take some extra time. Your bank will actually cut a paper check and mail it to us via USPS. Be sure to schedule your payment well in advance of your due date to avoid penalties and possible service termination.

MPWC Water Service Line Inventory Continues

The MPWC sincerely appreciates our customers' response to our request for assistance in identifying customer owned portions of the water lines in our service area.

If you are not already aware, New Jersey Assembly Bill 5343 requires all water systems to inventory and replace lead service lines. The majority of our service lines are copper. However, we are required to provide an accurate inventory of the various service line types on the

customer owned portion of the service for our entire service area.

YOU CAN HELP by informing us of the type of water line coming into your property. If you know what kind of pipes you have (copper, plastic, galvanized steel, lead, etc.) you can call our office and report the information to one of our Customer Support Representatives. You can also visit our website at www.mpwc.com for valuable information and pictures to assist you

with identifying your water service line and service line type.

If you are unsure, you may schedule an appointment with a Service Technician, or you can snap a photo of the pipe coming into the property that connects to your water meter.

Send your photos along with your property address to: info@mpwc.com or call us at: (856) 663-0043.

KEEP INFORMED WITH REVERSE 9-1-1

For members of the community directly affected by water main breaks, we provide messages via our Reverse 9-1-1 notification system. To stay informed of all water emergencies that may occur within our service area, visit MPWC.com/swift911 to sign up for Reverse 9-1-1!

Q: How often does the MPWC bill?



A: The MPWC bills every three months. However, we bill 7 cycles for each quarter & they don't run concurrent with taxes or with the sewer bills.

Meetings of the Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission are held in person on the second Thursday of every month at 4:00 p.m.

The location is the G. Burton German meeting room at the MPWC's Administrative Headquarters, 6751 Westfield Ave., Pennsauken, NJ 08110. The public is invited to attend. For more information, visit our website, MPWC.com

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MERCHANTVILLE – PENNSAUKEN WATER COMMISSION

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EDITOR'S DESK Enjoying The Nostalgia Circuit, But Not Living There



By Frank Sinatra,
AAP Editor

Getting older, apparently, is a “thing.” There’s no stopping it. When you’re young, you wish you were older. You can’t wait to be 10, or 18, or 21. And when you’re “oldish,” you wish you were younger. Oh, to be in your 20s again, or your 30s. Heck, I’d take 40 in a heartbeat. But that’s not how it works, no matter how hard you try.

That’s why there’s a bankable market for nostalgia. “Obi-Wan Kenobi” on Disney+ made it 1977 again. It was

amazing. “Top Gun: Maverick” was not only very well made but had so many references from the original film from 1986. “Ghostbusters: Afterlife,” “Star Trek: Picard,” “Masters of the Universe: Revelation,” all beckon back to my childhood. You can buy sports memorabilia from your favorite players back in the day and go to conventions that highlight classic TV shows. If something strikes a chord with people, you can bet that the entertainment world will go back to that well. That’s why there are five “Jurassic Park” flicks and 10 films in the “Fast and Furious” franchise. Heck, they’re even making a live action movie

about Mattel’s Barbie in 2023.

It can be a lot of fun to take a look back. I do enjoy it a lot. I play so many songs from the 80s that my kids know them by heart now. But you can’t live there. Like Billy Joel sings, “The good ole’ days weren’t always good. Tomorrow isn’t bad as it seems.” I enjoyed being a kid, with all the great, rose-color

glasses memories that went with it. But I also enjoy being “adult-ish.” I’ve built a decent life for myself. I’m legally responsible for two kids and I haven’t done too badly keeping them alive. Even my wife kind of thinks I’m okay. The dog is my kind of people: hairy with a proclivity to take naps. He almost has me trained.

Then, I get to write an article each

month that allows me to take whatever is spinning around in my head at 113-miles per hour and put it on paper for people to read. Not too shabby.

I hope you all are enjoying your summer. I ask my fellow residents to try not to blow up our neighborhoods during Independence Day. I like my house; it’s where I keep all my stuff.

GoodWorks Holds Grand Opening And Open House



Pennsauken Mayor Jessica Rafeh was on hand for the grand opening/open house of GoodWorks Building Contractors on Westfield Ave.

GoodWorks Building Contractors, located at 6928 Westfield Ave. in Pennsauken, held a grand opening/open house for the community last month.

“We’re a home remodeling contractor. We do kitchens and baths, a lot of interior work,” explained Alan Bibelheimer, owner of GoodWorks and a Pennsauken resident. “We’re good at flooring and doors. We’re also good carpenters. We appreciate your business.”

Pennsauken Mayor Jessica Rafeh was on hand for the open house and received

a tour of the renovated office and work-space.

“As Pennsauken’s mayor and on behalf of the entire Township Committee, we are excited and honored that GoodWorks opened their doors in Pennsauken,” said Mayor Rafeh. “We support small businesses, and we hope to see our residents here.”

GoodWorks’ office is open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and on Saturday by appointment. For more information, call (856) 229-1240.

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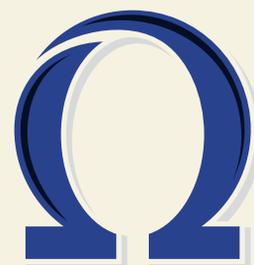
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The Class Of 2022 Graduates From Pennsauken High School continued from page 1

teachers, counselors, and administration for guiding, helping, and mentoring students of this class. I would like to thank all the parents and guardians who helped guide their children through their high school years. This celebration is as much yours as it is for the students. And on behalf of the administrators and staff of Pennsauken High School, I would also like to thank the Board of Education and Dr. Tarchichi, for everything they have done for the Class of 2022.

"Tomorrow begins a new chapter of your life. Many of you are going to college, trade school, the military, or the working world. You will face adversity. You will struggle. Keep going. Don't give up."

Pennsauken Board of Education President Nick Perry officially accepted the 60th class to graduate from Pennsauken High School. During his remarks, Mr. Perry spoke of the resiliency of the Class of 2022.

"You have been leaders. Who in the world ever heard of remote learning? But you got through remote learning. You got through in-person learning,"

said Perry. "You are now 'Marine tough.' So, there's very little, in my opinion, that you cannot accomplish."

Students also received poignant remarks from some of their classmates. Salutatorian Andrew Nguyen spoke about the bittersweet aspect of graduating from high school.

"You're leaving a place you've known for so long and entering a completely new one. And who knows what's going to happen? But everything happens for a reason; and no matter what obstacles we may face, we'll get through it," said Nguyen.

Valedictorian Victoria Van spoke about the important lessons the newest graduates of Pennsauken High School have learned.

"Over the last four years at Pennsauken High School, we have learned a lot. And all of this knowledge will no doubt be valuable as we go forward in life. But the I think the most important thing we've learned is perseverance," said Van. "Soon we'll be signing each other's yearbooks and saying goodbye. There will be hugs and tears and we'll do our best to

stay in touch. But we'll be forging our own paths and that makes all the difference."

That spirit of determination was echoed by Youssef Rafeh, president of the Class of 2022.

"If there's one word I could use to describe this class, it would be 'grit.' You all have that drive to persevere and work towards what you want. If isolation and a global pandemic isn't going to stop me, I can't imagine what will."

The shining moment of the celebration was the culmination of four years of challenges and accomplishments: the awarding of diplomas to the Class of 2022. Proud family members and classmates cheered on the students, as they each basked in this special moment. Two Pennsauken Board of Education members were particularly excited to see their relatives graduate. Lisa Eckel's grandson, Anthony Howard, and Samer Jarbou-Rafeh's cousin, Youssef Rafeh, both walked in the ceremony.

"The tradition of moving the tassel to the left after graduating is symbolic of crossing over from high school to an-

other chapter of your life," said Principal Bonkowski. "At this time, I ask the Class of 2022, as graduates of Pennsauken High School, to now lift [their tassels] from the right to the left. Ladies and gentlemen: the Class of 2022!"

As the newest alumni of Pennsauken High School processed out, they were greeted by loving family and best friends, embracing with tears of joy, ready to continue the celebration of their special day. Congratulations to the Class of 2022!

Hertline Retires From Police Force

continued from page 18

six years, Officer Hertline was also assigned as the Pennsauken Township OEM coordinator.

"What he did in his tenure as OEM during COVID, helping the town get through the pandemic, is remarkable," said Sgt. Michael Biazzo.

"The work that [Bill's] done over the last few years, let alone the 20-some previous years is unbelievable," added Lt. Michael Killion. "When Billy took over OEM, he shined. He set the bar high."

Hertline is also a volunteer member of 28 years for the Pennsauken Fire Department, currently assigned as their Deputy Chief.

"Bill is Pennsauken, through and through. To manage three disciplines as he has, be a second-generation fireman, and a second-generation police officer is pretty remarkable," said Pennsauken Fire Chief Joseph Palumbo. "Our adoration of you is unparalleled and you deserve every second of what you're getting here today and beyond."

Officer Hertline's father, William

Hertline, Jr., retired from the Pennsauken Township Police Department as a detective; the two had an opportunity to work together.

"I was fortunate enough to work with him when I was a detective, and he was in traffic," said Hertline, Jr. "I retired 18 years ago, and I can't believe he's retiring now. It was quick. I'm so proud of him."

"Bill, you've been a tremendous asset to this Township. You have dedicated yourself to making people's lives safer and better. And there's not a better tribute than that," added Tim Killion, Pennsauken Township's administrator. "So truly, thank you for everything you've done over the past 25 years. You've earned it and the Township will forever be grateful."

Hertline was deeply appreciative of his family and colleagues who came out to wish him well.

"Thank you to the police department, the Township administration, the fire department, for all being here," said Hertline. "I met a lot of great friends here. I'm leaving on a good note. Everyone stay safe. I appreciate the support over the years. Thanks"

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Mayors Rafeh, Brennan Speak At PMAC Luncheon *continued from page 1*

“It’s great to have good neighbors, and Merchantville is definitely one of the good ones,” said Mayor Rafeh. “It’s important both Pennsauken and Merchantville do well so that our community can grow and thrive.”

“I’m invested in this community, but [that] doesn’t mean geographic boundaries. Pennsauken and Merchantville, to me, are interchangeable. It’s one big community,” added Mayor Brennan. “We can’t do what we do in Merchantville without great partners like the Township of Pennsauken.”

One such collaboration is the Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission, which serves approximately 50,000 customers throughout Pennsauken and Merchantville, as well as sections of Cherry Hill and Camden.

“The MPWC is an important shared asset. It’s an incredible testament to the hard work of people who live in our communities,” said Brennan. “Almost 100 percent of the staff of the Mer-

chantville Pennsauken Water Commission are Merchantville and Pennsauken residents. They care a lot about the water, something that is really important for all of us.”

Mayor Rafeh added that the importance of collaboration extended to the business community.

“It’s so important that our local businesses, whether you’re in Pennsauken, Merchantville, or another one of our neighboring communities, work with one another.”

“Pennsauken has welcomed my relatives, and their businesses, with open arms. And as our businesses have grown, so has our commitment to this wonderful community,” continued Rafeh. “And while we’ve had a lot of success, as hard as you try, some business ventures just don’t work out. So, I get it. I know the challenges that businesses face and understand the hard work and dedication you all put out in order to make things work.”

The approach towards economic development is dramatically different for each community. Pennsauken’s size and location has been a draw to large companies, such as “Shark Tank” success story Scrub Daddy; Top Pop Packaging, valued at \$18 million; and popular consumer goods and food delivery service Go Puff. The Township is also home to a variety of small businesses including longtime staples Beacon Auto, McAllister, The Pub, and Inglesby and Sons Funeral Home. Merchantville’s focus is the continued development of its extremely walkable downtown area, which will see \$1 million worth of improvements, thanks to a Department of Transportation grant. The Borough is also looking to expand opportunities for both more community events as well as outdoor dining. But the common theme was that economic growth and diverse, successful businesses mean good things for the entire community.

“The Township is a partner with all of

our businesses. And like a good partner, we want to help you grow and succeed,” explained Mayor Rafeh. “Please know that every member of Pennsauken’s Township Committee is here for you. Let us know about the issues you’re facing, and we’ll do our best to help.”

“We’re building a lot right now and

continuing to work very hard to put the right types of businesses into our community. A rising tide lifts all ships,” added Mayor Brennan. “As Camden goes, as Pennsauken goes, as Merchantville goes, we really will be able to step our communities up. It’s good for your businesses, it’s good for the residents.”

National Night Out In Pennsauken Held On August 2 *continued from page 1*

August (Texas celebrates on the first Tuesday in October). Neighborhoods host block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and various other community events with safety demonstrations, sem-

inars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel, exhibits and much, much more.”

For more information, visit PennsaukenEvents.com.

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Pennsauken Lions Club Plans Christmas In July Fundraiser



The Pennsauken Lions Club will hold its first community wide Christmas in July fundraiser at the 45th Street Pub, 2545 Rt. 130, Pennsauken, on Saturday, July 23, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person and includes roast beef, pasta, Caesar salad, and cash bar. Ten percent of the proceeds collected will be donated to the Pennsauken Angel Tree Program. For tickets and information about the event, please contact Matt McDevitt at (856) 366-508.

Vision Screenings

Thanks to the Pennsauken Lions' vision team, we were able to screen many more children this year at public and parochial schools in the Pennsauken and

Merchantville area, as well as a local day-care. Through the vision team's efforts, we screened 509 children:

- Kiddie Junction, 12
- Saint Peter Elementary, 90
- Saint Cecilia Kindergarten, 29
- Delair Elementary, 122
- Fine Elementary, 80
- Franklin Elementary, 19
- Baldwin Elementary, 75
- Merchantville Elementary, 82

The Pennsauken Lions will resume their screening efforts again in September of 2022. However, if you have a child that requires to have their eyes checked for any eye issues, please contact us at pennsaukenlionsclub1@gmail.com. The Pennsauken Lions Club continues to support the needs of the community by

addressing issues of less fortunate individuals and families.

The Pennsauken Lions Club is looking for dedicated community individuals to join us for any future meeting and to become a Lion member. If you would like more information about the Lions Club, to help the less fortunate citizens of the community, donate to our vision screening program, or support our school scholarship efforts, please consider joining us! Lions meet at 6:00 p.m. on the first Monday of each month (except holidays) at the Community Room of the Pennsauken Free Public Library, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd.

Please follow us @PennsaukenLions on Facebook, or email us at PennsaukenLionsClub1@gmail.com.

Griffith Morgan Homestead Reopens For First Sunday Events

Information Provided By The Pennsauken Historical Society

On Sunday, July 3, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., the historic Griffith Morgan Homestead will reopen after important repair and restoration work, which was funded by a grant provided by the Camden County Open Space Historic Preservation Program. This event will include free tours of the old house and museum, along with special historic displays and activities. For Independence Day weekend, Griffith Morgan Homestead will focus on the flag with a display of historic flags and their stories.

Also, be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, Aug. 7, when a very special visit to historic Griffith Morgan House

will bring Revolutionary History to life! More details will soon be shared on Facebook and in the August issue of All Around Pennsauken!

Admission and parking are free, while donations, memberships, and volunteer opportunities, always appreciated, help to keep our historic community resource open and free for all!

Visit the Griffith Morgan House or Pennsauken Historical Society pages or the group "Pennsauken History Forum" on Facebook for more details and directions, or e-mail pennsaukenhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

Both Burrough-Dover House and Griffith Morgan House are also open for tours and research by appointment.

Storm Preparedness And Clean Up At Public Works

continued from page 6

days, depending on the extent of outages and PSE&G's availability. It's an unpleasant bit of news to have to deliver to residents, but no life is worth endangering when the proper procedures can perform the work safely. Sometimes, PSE&G will cut the tree, restore power, and leave behind the tree debris. As this sometimes occurs on nights or weekends, they usually do not inform us of the

debris left behind and residents get upset with Public Works. We ask for affected residents to notify our office and we will respond appropriately.

If a tree has fallen on your property, regardless of downed wires or not, Public Works tree crews will not remove the tree from your home. This is regardless of where the tree originated from; you would need to contact your insurance

carrier/tree contractor to remove the tree. If you have someone cut up the tree and get it to the curb, Pennsauken Department of Public Works can make collection of the debris at that point.

Enjoy the warm weather and stay safe!

As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to our office at (856) 663-0178 or email us at publicworks@pennsauken.gov.

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FOODADVENTURES

By Rachael Shugars, AAP Columnist

It's one of my favorite little joys in life: discovering places to eat, trying unique foods, and finding places to shop for my favorite treats. It's great talking to other local foodies about the best spots in town. It's a luxury I appreciate and one that I know isn't available to everyone. Amidst my adventures I remind myself of the sobering truth that hunger exists and

In the GARDEN

Spectacular Succulents In The Summertime

By Victoria Rose, AAP Columnist

Happy summer! I hope you took advantage of some of the milder days we had in June and caught up on some last-minute gardening. I wound up buying an extra flat of vinca, which are well watered and doing quite nicely in the front garden.

I have added something relatively new to the "Rose gardens:" succulents. These hardy plants do extremely well in the summer, as they have thickened stems and/or leaves that do a great job retaining water in hot conditions. Cacti are succulents, but they're not the only one. Ice plants/carpet weeds, echeveria, aloe plants, shark tooth, donkey's tail, and string of hearts/pearls are other popular types.

While succulents are perfect for full sun, if you're introducing newly purchased plants, it's best to get them acclimated. Pots should be placed in areas where there is a mix of shade and sun for a few days until you make the move. If planting in the ground, it's a good idea to do so on a cloudy, overcast day, or even at night, when temperatures are lower. That being said, it can be dicey planting anything new outside this time of year.

Watering succulents is different than your other plants. You shouldn't water them too often. Check the top of the soil; if it's completely dry, give it a good soak, then give the soil time to drain out/dry. A

Finding Help And Feeding The Soul Through Local Food Pantries

rears its horrible head daily to people in Pennsauken and around our neighboring communities.

Recently, I had the chance to speak with the organization director for Pennsauken's own Temple Lutheran's Lida Knaus Food Pantry and take a tour of their pantry store, which cultivates the idea that everyone deserves a right to food security. Pantries like the one at

Temple Lutheran strive every day to bring basic food and other necessities to the people who need them most. During my tour of the facility a few things struck me. The store has so many modern amenities, the products they offer vary from month to month, and the "shopping" experience that they offer brings dignity to the whole experience.

It's so important to keep places like the store at Temple Lutheran active and thriving. Donating to food banks in town

is quick and easy. If you need to utilize the food bank, signing up is super quick and easy as well. If you visit the Township website at pennsauken.gov, you can look for the grocery bag icon. Here you will find a list of local food pantries. You can reach out to any of them to donate, volunteer, or utilize the services. To find out more about the Lida Knaus Food Pantry, you can call (856) 663-7783.

Food pantries accept all types of donations. Toiletries are very much needed

and appreciated, along with books, coats, diapers, and all other nonperishable items. Anything and everything help when donating. Signing up to be able to receive goods is quick and confidential.

As food adventurers, it's our duty to not only enjoy tasting foods from wherever we go, but also do our part in making sure that our community is one filled with food security, variety, and availability. Let's make sure everyone can enjoy a food adventure.

good rule of thumb is to water them every two weeks or so.

For your non-succulents, be sure to water your flowers and other plants in the morning before full sun, and/or in the evening, beginning at dusk. If you have vegetables in your garden, they're just about ready to pick! Tomatoes will be ready soon. If they start to redden, pick them from the plants and put them by your windowsill indoors to finish ripening. Better that you enjoy them than the squirrels! Peppers, sweet corn, and eggplant should also be ready sometime this month.

When watering or weeding in your gardens, please be careful in the heat. After all, you're not a succulent! Put on sunscreen to protect your skin from getting sunburn. Wearing a hat will help your head and face. And make sure to protect your neck too; getting sunburn there is not fun! Also, remember to rehydrate while you are working or enjoying the outdoors.

After all your hard work in the garden, be sure to grab a cool drink with plenty of ice and sit outside on your lawn or patio and take in all the beauty of what you've planted!

Thank you for taking the time to read my column. Until next time, be kind, be beautiful, and be happy!



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FRIENDS *of the* LIBRARY

Friends Poetry Contest Winners Compete At State Level

By Arlene Miller, Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library

Congratulations to two of our poetry contest winners from last year, both of whom have won first place in their respective levels for the state contest sponsored by the Woman's Club. Bianca Lusardi, who won first place in our elementary 2-3 level amusing category, and Noah Talley, who took the first-place prize in the high school level, are the talented winners. We're very proud of them!

Since summer is in full swing and because we believe everyone deserves a break, the Friends will be taking one from

our Munch and a Movie get-togethers over the summer. Don't fret, though, because we'll resume in September with more great movies each month, along with some trivia-related, fun-filled additions to make your watching pleasure even better. Maybe even some prizes?

Our yoga sessions are always a hit; these last ones were no exception and just what everybody needed. So now that everyone is limber and mellowed out, we're going to give you the summer off and start planning more events in our wellness series for the fall. Dates and information coming when the leaves start to turn.

And speaking of leaves starting to turn, books – and assorted media – will be our focus Oct. 21-24 for our upcoming fall Book and Media Sale and the accompanying Bake Sale, held during regular library hours in the Community Room. Collection of books and other related items will begin on Sept. 19, so start gathering up all that exciting stuff you read and watched during these past two years so you can drop it off at the library's Community Room for sorting and eventual selling. All proceeds of Friends events help us continue to help the library, and we appreciate your support.

We need volunteers to help sort books, set up tables, bake, or just become a member of the Friends. Let us know how we can use your talent and ideas by calling us at (856) 665-5959, ext. 7.



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Woman's Club Donates Books For Summer Reading



The Woman's Club of Merchantville collected 522 books for preschool and kindergarten students in Pennsauken. All the students now have a new book for the summer! Seen here are happy students from Delair School.

PHS Students Perform For Woman's Club

"Pennsauken Stages" from Pennsauken High School performed for the Merchantville Woman's Club's Spring Luncheon. Seen here with Jan Hanson, retiring club president, is Iliana Perez, Julianna Fuentes, Brazil Taylor, Grace Raymond, Yadhira Almonte, Ariana Roberts, and Kate Guenther, PHS vocal music director.



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GRAYMATTERS Celebrating My Own Independence Day

By Judith Kristen,
AAP Columnist

Independence Day is soon upon all of us as a nation, and I certainly will be celebrating it along with friends and family. But I have recently had my own Independence Day that took place on June 14, at 11:06 a.m. Hey! That was Flag Day, so that counts too, right?

As my family and my family of friends and neighbors know, I have been living independently for almost two years now. I have moved from the home Andy and I shared for 16 years last January, and I'm now happily living in a lovely apartment in Merchantville, thanks to the nicest landlady on the planet, Jean Rowand, whose daughter, by the way, is the Susan I often mention in my column who works at Aunt Charlotte's Candies! Coincidence? Nah. I can never get away from Aunt Charlotte's and why on earth would I want to?

Sophie, my darling dog, and my cat, Lucky, have adjusted nicely along with me. They are doing well in their new surroundings. I'm in a first-floor apartment, no stairs to maneuver; and it's only 500 square feet, maybe a bit more if you

count the sun porch. I've always found something truly lovely about apartments, something cozy and close and good. The vibe in my new apartment is a happy one.

Another thing that has changed is my last name. Of course, my pen name stays the same, but for every other purpose, "Reed" is back once again. And when I think of the fun and joy-filled times I had in my life while I had that last name, I can see no reason why it won't continue. How much fun I'll have at the DMV changing my name remains to be seen...

I want to thank my beautiful friends for moving me along through this process, and divorce IS a process. I was surrounded by love, good advice, lots of hugs when I needed one, lotsa phone calls, cards, and letters. I was driven to doctor's appointments, and to Jefferson Hospital when I had my cancer procedure. My friends also helped me move stuff out of the house before the official movers came; they babysat Sophie, fed Lucky, hung pictures and mirrors, and brought in new furniture. I was invited to their homes for lunches and dinners and invited out to eat at all my favorite places. Just lots of fun times with one and all, especially with my three great grand-

daughters: Lily, age 8, Adele age 6, and Margaux, who prefers to be called Mango, age 4. But that's another story.

My friends were also wonderful enough to kick me in the fanny (not literally, but you know what I mean) when I needed that too. They were there to be genuine friends, some I had known for years, decades, and those even well over the half-century mark. I'm blessed by these treasures in my life. I truly am. And these people were also friends of Andy's as well. However, when he moved out, he didn't keep in touch with them. Knowing him for over two decades, he wanted a clean slate for his new life, and he could invite the people he chose to be there with him. He's not the first - it happens.

This ending didn't devastate me as my first marriage did, having four children with John. Frankly, this time I was re-

lieved and quite confident about moving forward. Some people are in your life for a season, some people are in your life for a reason as they say, and Andy's reason and season came to an end and I'm okay with that. And it sure beats the alternative of not being okay with that. I'm always for better, healthier, and more balanced and loving alternatives. It's in my spirit and in my DNA.

As a final thought, I do wish Andy peace of mind, faith in love, genuine friendships, and much happiness as this

chapter of both of our lives has come to an end. I've always been good at writing "happily ever afters" in my books, eliciting humor into my columns, etc., so there is a natural overflow of sorts that I can see and feel in the life I now lead. And for that I am most grateful.

I also wish all of you reading this column peace of mind, faith in love, genuine friendships, and much happiness. I surely do.

See you next month!
~Judy

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Stan has been with the funeral home since 2002. He graduated from Mercer County College in 2003 and received his Associate's Degrees in Business Administration and Funeral Service. Stan married his wife Julie in 2005. In 2008 they welcomed their son, Stanley V, into the family, and in 2014 welcomed their twins, Wesley and Madeline. They are members at Grace Church in Merchantville, where Stan has served for 4 years on the Vestry and volunteers with the food pantry. Stan's wife Julie is also the secretary at Grace Church. He has been both a coach and assistant coach of youth baseball in Delran since 2012 at both the recreational and district levels.



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2022 Summer Reading Program: Oceans of Possibilities!

Pennsauken Free Public Library has six weeks of summer fun coming up this July and August! Please check our website for the calendar of events: www.pennsaukenlibrary.org. Most programs do not require registration and are first come, first-served. Prompt arrival to all events is encouraged.

Programs that require advance registration include the following:

Lightning Thief Book Club – Tuesdays, 7/5 to 8/9; 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. For ages 8-12. Hang out this summer with everyone's favorite demigod, Percy Jackson. Follow the son of the sea god's adventures in "The Lightning Thief" for the first time or refresh your memory while you wait for the Disney+ series. Each week we will read aloud, discuss, do activities, and enjoy some delicious snacks. Registration is required and indicates a commitment to attend all six sessions. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/pfpllightning> to register.

Summer Maker Camp – Wednesdays, 7/6 to 8/10; 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For grades 2-8. A free camp for young makers interested in DIY, making, creating, crafting, hacking, tinkering, and learning. It combines the best parts of camp while

incorporating the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) disciplines. This program will run for six weeks. Campers can bring a lunch or a snack. Registration is required. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/pfplmakercamp> to register and for more details.

Intro to Dungeons & Dragons – Saturday, 7/9, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and Saturdays, 7/23, and 8/6, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. This introductory program is designed especially for those ages 12-18 who are new to playing the fifth edition of D&D. Registration is required and indicates a commitment to attend all three sessions. Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/pfpldandd>.

Smartphone Photo Editing – Wednesday, 7/13; 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. For teens and adults. Join Pennsauken Township's Digital Media Coordinator, Ryan Wachter, for an introduction to photo editing tools and apps that can improve and enhance your smartphone photos. This program is geared towards teens and adults who would like to take their cellphone photography skills to the next level. Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/pfplphoto>.

Stop Motion Animation Workshop – Thursdays, 7/21 to 8/11; 11:00 a.m. to

12:30 p.m. For grades 5-12. PFPL is excited to announce a Stop Motion Animation Pilot Program scheduled to run for four weeks this summer. Participants will learn the basics of stop motion animation, using tablets and LEGO, and will work with team members to write, develop, and film an animated short featuring music, voiceovers, sound effects, and credits. Registration is required. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/pfplstopmotion> to register.

Intro to Tarot – Thursday, 8/4; 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. For ages 15-25. A full class on the basics of tarot and reading. A printable PDF deck will be sent to all registrants if needed, but feel free to use your own. This is a virtual program via Zoom. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/pfpltarot> to register.

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Kids "Cool Off With A Cop" At 7-Eleven



At the "Cool Off With A Cop" event, officers from the Pennsauken Township Police Department handed out coupons for free Slurpees at the 7-Eleven on Westfield Ave.

Phifer Eighth Graders Promoted To PHS Class Of 2026

continued from page 5

New Jersey," said Eckel. "So by the power invested in me, I hereby declare the Class of 2026 to be promoted to Pennsauken High School, with all the rights and entitlements it bears."

To close out the ceremony, the eighth grade chorus, under the direction of Ms. Dyan Conklin, sang "Imagine" by John Lennon. The song had a poignant message: that these students can make their dreams a reality and that they could be a source of positive change in the world.

Emboldened by these messages of hope and encouragement, Pennsauken's new ninth graders processed out of The Liacouras Center, excited to begin high school as the Class of 2026.

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inSports Softball Fundraiser Benefits Leukemia And Lymphoma Society



Mayor Jessica Rafeh, Deputy Mayor Roberts, and Committeeman Vince Martinez were on hand for Kristian's Softball Classic, a fundraiser for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The event was put together by Kenneth Allen Thomas for his special needs son, Kristian, who beat AMKL-leukemia. In addition, Pennsauken's first responders took the field and participated in the softball tournament.



MPLL All-Stars Win District Championship



Congratulations to the Merchantville Pennsauken Little League 50/70 All-Star team on winning the District 13 Championship! Photo credit: Eddy Marengo.

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All participants must be registered by Thursday, Aug. 4, or they will not be able to participate in the fall season.

For more information, contact Coach Chris at (609) 332-9266 or Coach Will at (856) 882-9377.

Pennsauken Police Carry "Flame Of Hope"



Pennsauken Township Police joined more than 3,000 officers across the state to help carry the "Flame of Hope" a distance of nearly 750 miles, raising funds and creating awareness for Special Olympics New Jersey. Local officers raised \$3,000, and Officer Sexton had the honor of running the "Flame of Hope" onto the field for the Special Olympics Summer Games opening ceremony at the College of New Jersey in Trenton.

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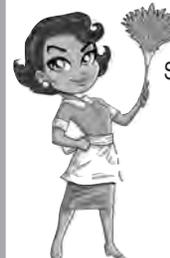
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